Austerity measures in Governmental Expenditure

957. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had drawn up a list to effect austerity and bring economy in governmental expenditures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the Members of Parliament have written letters to the Ministry bringing to their notice the areas where economy can be effected without compromising efficiency; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken on these letters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government have issued guidelines on June 17, 1996 on expenditure management — fiscal prudence and austerity, which intend to achieve, through control of growth of expenditure and enhancement of return on Govt. equity in Public Sector Enterprises, an annual attrition of Rs. 3000 crores in the expenditure budget of the Central Government. The salient features of the guidelines include (i) review and evaluation of on-going programmes and schemes to determine their continued relevance; (ii) strict curbing of deviations from the prescribed budgetary ceilings; (iii) declaration of a minimum dividend of 20% on equity by Public Sector enterprises if distributable profits permit or minimum dividend pay out of 20% of post-tax profits (30% in respect of Oil, Petroleum, Chemical and other infrastructure sectors); (iv) time and cost overruns of schemes to be strictly avoided; and (v) manpower rationalisation.

Certain apprehensions were expressed in some quarters in so far as the guidelines relate to wages and manpower. The Govt. have since clarified that, under the guidelines;

(i) there would be no retrenchment of any employee in any Central Government Ministry, Organisation or Public Sector Undertaking;

(ii) there will be no reduction in the wages of Government employees because the provision for payment of salaries would be suitably adjusted for inflation in accordance with the DA formula accepted by the Govt; and

(iii) the recommendations of the Vth Pay Commission when they are accepted by the Government will be fully provided for.

(c) and (d) Some Members of Parliament and others have given certain important suggestions, which will be kept in view.

भारत में पर्यटकों के आकर्षण-स्थल

958. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विश्व के विभिन्न भागों से आने वाले पर्यटकों के लिए उनकी इच्छानुसार भारत में विभिन्न प्रकार के आकर्षण उपलब्ध हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार इनका पूरा लाभ उठाने में असमर्थ है जबकि, सिंगापुर, इंडोनेशिया और मलेशिया जैसे छोटे राष्ट्र इस संबंध में हमसे काफी आगे हैं;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) वर्तमान स्थिति में सुधार करने और पर्यटकों के लिए महत्वपूर्ण आकर्षण-स्थलों को विकसित/सुधार करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं?

संसदीय कार्य मंत्री तथा पर्यटन मंत्री (श्री श्रीकान्त जैना): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (घ) अपर्याप्त आधारभूत सुविधाओं का होना, देश में पर्यटन के विकास में मूल अवरोध है। राज्य सरकारों को वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध करवाने के साथ-साथ निजी क्षेत्र के निवेश को आकर्षित करके, आधारभूत सुविधाओं के सुधार के लिए कदम उठाए गए हैं।